

Message Text

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50

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 PRS-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 PA-01 USIA-06 L-02 H-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 SR-02

ORM-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 /074 W

----- 105209

R 101051Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2838

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

SECDEF

CINCPAC

CDR JCRC CP SAMAE SAN THAI

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D/PW FOR HENDERSON

GENEVA FOR SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJ: DEAN-SHARMAN CASE

REF: VIENTIANE 1700

1. TRANSMITTED HEREIN IS TEXT OF MARCH 10 LETTER FROM
AMBASSADOR TO FON MIN PHOUMI MENTIONED REFTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

EXCELLENCY:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR LETTER OF
FEBRUARY 28 WITH THE ENCLOSED LETTER OF FEBRUARY 24
FROM THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE
CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE
DISAPPEARANCE OF THE AMERICAN CITIZEN CHARLES M. DEAN,
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AND HIS AUSTRALIAN COMPANION, NEIL SHARMAN.

WHILE IT IS ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES, I FIND THAT THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT REPRESENTATIVE ARE INCOMPLETE AND INCONSISTENT WITH THE FACTS THAT HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED TO YOU IN MY LETTERS AND WITH THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THAO KHAMMOUY IN THE XAT LAO NEWSPAPER ARTICLE OF FEBRUARY 26. SINCE THE ARREST AND SUBSEQUENT DETENTION OF MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN, IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, AN EVER-INCREASING AMOUNT OF INFORMATION FROM LAO CITIZENS FAMILIAR WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES HAS BECOME AVAILABLE, AND THERE NOW EXISTS A LARGE BODY OF PEOPLE WHO ARE AWARE OF THE SITUATION AND ARE AVAILABLE TO INVESTIGATORS TO VERIFY THE FACTS.

IN PARTICULAR, I WISH TO POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE PROVIDED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DETAILED EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF TWELVE LAO CITIZENS WHO, AT VARIOUS TIMES, OBSERVED THE TRAVELS AND ARREST OF THESE TWO YOUNG MEN OR SAW THEM AT A DETENTION FACILITY. MY LETTER OF JANUARY 30 RECOUNTED, CLEARLY AND IN DETAIL, THE OBSERVATIONS OF THE BOATMAN AND OTHER LAO PASSENGERS OF THE BOAT WHICH CARRIED MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN ON SEPTEMBER 6 TO PAK HINBOUN. THEIR TESTIMONY WAS CONCLUSIVE: IT WAS LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT PERSONNEL WHO CERTIFIED THE PASSENGERS' TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND ARRESTED THE TWO YOUTHS. IN EARLIER COMMUNICATIONS TO THE MINISTRY, I DESCRIBED IN SIMILAR DETAIL THE SUBSEQUENT DETENTION OF THE TWO MEN IN THE KHAM KEUT AREA AND THEIR MOVEMENT EASTWARD THROUGH BAN NALIANG ON DECEMBER 14.

THE INSINUATION IN THE FEBRUARY 24 LETTER OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT REPRESENTATIVE THAT THE ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF AUTHORITIES OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND ON THE MEKONG RIVER MAY SOMEHOW ACCOUNT FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN IS UNWARRANTED AND WITHOUT FOUNDATION IN FACT. FIRST, NO EVIDENCE IS ADDUCED THAT THAI AUTHORITIES GENERALLY ENGAGE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES OR WERE SPECIFICALLY INVOLVED WITH THE BOAT ON WHICH MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN TRAVELED. SECOND, SHOULD SUCH AN INCIDENT HAVE OCCURRED LAST SEPTEMBER, A GREAT CLAMOR WOULD HAVE BEEN RAISED CONCERNING SUCH OUTRAGEOUS CONDUCT AND BOTH THE AUSTRALIAN AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED.

THE BODY OF EVIDENCE, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, ATTESTING TO THE ARREST AND DETENTION OF MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN BY THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT IS SUCH WEIGHT THAT A CONTINUED AND EXPANDED INVESTIGATION IS REQUIRED. THIS EXPANDED INVESTIGATION SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE TESTIMONY OF THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARREST, MOVEMENT AND DETENTION OF MESSRS. DEAN AND

SHARMAN. FOR THIS REASON, I AM PLEASED THAT THE LAO
PATRIOTIC FRONT REPRESENTATIVE HAS EXPRESSED HIS IN-
TENTION TO CONTINUE THE INVESTIGATION, AND I AM
CONFIDENT THAT THE INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED
WILL MATERIALLY ASSIST IN CONCLUDING THE INVESTIGATION
WITH THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE RELEASE OF MESSRS. DEAN
AND SHARMAN. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE).
END OF TEXT.
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Message Attributes

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